

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 124762
ORIGIN EB-08

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DRAFTED BY EB/TD:ALFREEMAN:PB
APPROVED BY EB/TD:GLHUFFCUTT
OES/CP - MR. LEE
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-----125495 171436Z /50
R 162150Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 124762

FOR TELATT

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:ETEL

SUBJECT:TELEVISION BROADCAST IN OBSERVANCE OF INTERNA-
TIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (1979)

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED TELEX FROM ITU SECGEN REGARDING
POSSIBLE LIVE WORLDWIDE TELEVISION PROGRAM FOR 1979 IN
FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD (1979) AS
PROCLAIMED BY UNGA. SECGEN SAYS PROGRAM "TO BE CONSIDERED
AS TECHNICAL DEMONSTRATION UNDERLINING UNIVERSALITY OF ITU
ACTION", SINCE BROADCAST WOULD COINCIDE WITH WARC-79 AND
TELECOM-79. SECGEN, REFERRING TO PRIOR CORRESPONDENCE WITH
THE DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH A 1973 PROPOSAL FOR A
WORLDWIDE TELEVISION PROGRAM TO HIGHLIGHT WORLD POPULATION
PROBLEMS, ASKS WHETHER U.S. CAN "MAINTAIN YOUR GENEROUS
OFFER FOR FREE USE OF NECESSARY CIRCUITS UNDER JURISDICTION
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OF U.S. FOR THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT".

2. DEPARTMENT RECORDS DO NOT CORROBORATE SECGEN'S INTER-
PRETATION OF AVAILABILITY OF CIRCUITS WITHIN U.S. OUR
LETTER TO SECGEN DATED NOVEMBER 29, 1973 NOTED THAT
PARTICIPATION BY US CARRIERS ON THE BASIS OF THE PROVISION
OF FREE SERVICE RAISES VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM. WE SAID IT

MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE CARRIERS (I.E. FOUNDATION OR CORPORATE FUNDING) IF THE PROGRAM WERE IN FACT DEVELOPED. WE TOLD SECGEN WE COULD MAKE NO COMMIT-

MENT BUT WISHED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF PROJECT. WE CONCLUDED BY NOTING CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST AND THAT WE HAD SUGGESTED THAT CPB CORRESPOND WITH ITU DIRECTLY.

3. CURRENT PROPOSAL RAISES SAME PROBLEM FOR U.S. AS DID 1973 PROPOSAL, NAMELY, RESTRICTION IN THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934 PROHIBITING WAIVER OF CHARGES FOR SERVICES. IN DEVELOPING REPLY TO SECGEN'S TELEX, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW BASIS ON WHICH SECGEN BELIEVES U.S. HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED TO FREE USE OF NECESSARY CIRCUITS. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION SECGEN CAN FURNISH ABOUT PROPOSED TELECAST, INCLUDING NAME AND ADDRESS

OF PROGRAM COORDINATOR, AND DATE AND TIME OF TELECAST. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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